The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

No man can roof his house with clouds and moonshine so as to turn the rain from him.—Thomas Carlyle.

VOL. 16, NO. 30. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1926. WHOLE NO. 809.

SERF IDEAL IN UP-TO-DATE STAGE DRESSING

When our foes tell us we are "alarmed" at the company "union" they ignore history and the invincible power of solidarity and education.

Trade unionists are not alarmed at the company "union." They consider it but another tactic of opponents, and are acting accordingly.

Years ago the organized workers were not alarmed when they met the bludgeon attack of open foes. Neither are they now alarmed when these foes attempt to conceal their opposition.

The company "union" will eventually go the road traveled by other substitutes. That time can be hastened by exposing those who would control the workers' lives.

The right to organize is of first importance to the workers. No injustice can be remedied, no advance is possible, unless that right is conceded.

As a wheel revolves around its axle, so the workers' activities center around their trade union. Every educational, economic, social and political movement radiates from the trade union. It is controlled by the workers—it is of, by and for them.

The company "union" would detach them from this central force. It is merely one of many substitutes invented by anti-unionists, who must adopt new deceits, as old ones are exposed.

A decade or a century ago they discovered that frank hostility was no longer practical. Even courts and lawmakers were forced to bow before a new public opinion created by the workers.

The anti-unionists then presented their so-called "open" shop. Under this system they assumed a tolerant attitude toward trade unionism in public, but maintained secret blacklists against active members of organized labor.

After long agitation, the so-called "open" shop was discredited. The backers of this system now present the company "union."

The stage dressing differs, but the individuals are the same. They are as stout defenders of paternalism and the serf idea as in the days when trade unionists were classed as conspirators.

Organized labor well knows the long and bitter years of opposition to their movement. They are alert to the many defenses opponents have erected in their continuous retreat before education and agitation.

The company "union" is the latest barrier. It is but another breastworks by which the Old Guard of Reaction hopes to stay the tide of enlightenment.

Trade unionists are not alarmed at this barrier. They are reforming their lines against it, as they have against every other opposition.

PORTO RICANS DUPED; PAID PAUPER WAGES

Phoenix, Ariz., Oct. 9.—Organized labor is aiding 100 destitute men, women and children from Porto Rico who have been lured to this state by the Arizona Cotton Growers' Association.

The Porto Ricans say that the cotton planters agreed to pay them $2 for a 10-hour day, with housing, drinking water, medical attention and sanitary conditions. When they started to work they found they were to be paid at the rate of 1¼ cents a pound. As they have no experience in this work, it is impossible for them to earn more than $1 to $1.25 a day.

They had no place to sleep on the farms and drifted into Phoenix.

Many of them had eaten nothing for two and three days.

The trade unionists invited them to the Central Labor Council hall, where food was provided and sleeping arrangements made.

The local central body informed President Green of the situation and he has taken the matter up with Secretary of Labor Davis.

A. F. OF L. IN ANNUAL MEET; WORKERS FACE NEW ISSUES

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 9.—In responding to addresses of welcome, at the opening session of the A. F. of L. annual convention, President Green made a spirited reply to those who would deny labor the right to unite.

The trade union executive was cheered when he said:

"The labor movement is here; it will ever remain; its destruction is inconceivable. It has proved by conflict and contest its right to be recognized as a part of the institutional life of our great land."

The delegates were officially welcomed by Mayor John W. Smith. Addresses were also made by local trade union officials.

President Green's remarks were an answer to anti-union manufacturers in this city who have questioned in all seriousness if the convention would not "disturb the peace and tranquility among the working people."

The executive council reported that during the past year "we have extended our membership and increased the number and scope of our collective agreements, as we have convinced both workers and managements that the trade union is a practical, constructive agency that promotes the interdependent interests of all concerned.

"With the growth and development of American industry and the organization of ever larger units of industrial enterprise in corporate form, there is the imperative need for a parallel form of organization of the workers in those industries, so that the employment contract may retain the value and virtues of equality of opportunity and assure all a fair measure of mutuality and exercise of free will in the making of employment agreements."

The executive council said that when these principles of mutuality are denied "there develops a feeling of resentment or an indifference because of the lack of initiative which arbitrary management fosters."

The so-called "open shop" campaign has spent its force, and opposition to the trade union movement has taken the form of company "unions," the council stated. These "unions," it is declared, deaden initiative and are a denial of freedom to organize.

Labor's victory over anti-strike and compulsory arbitration advocates is noted by the statement that "agitation has practically ceased." A few years ago, these so-called remedies for industrial unrest were feverishly urged by former Governor Allen of Kansas and others.

Short Work Week Not Revolutionary; Several Industries Can Make Change

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 9.—The mining, building and automobile industries are ready for the short work week, according to a statement by President Green.

"Our conception of the policy of the A. F. of L. is to make it sufficiently elastic to meet the developments of industry. That is especially true as applied to wages and hours," President Green said.

"The policy calling for the gradual reduction of hours is not revolutionary.

"The pronouncement of our aims in Atlantic City last year were in line with our traditional policy. The policy of Henry Ford of establishing the five-day week is the direct consequence of the foresight shown by American labor.

"Perhaps unnoticed by the public, this policy has established the shorter work week in some industries.

"Labor will not sacrifice wages to secure the shorter work week. We will not get it until productivity is increased. We propose to establish the shorter work week as industry is ready for it."

President Green said that the productivity per worker is so great in the automobile industry that the per capita output has increased from 25 to 50 per cent.

"The shorter work week is made necessary by the nervous tension under which industry is carried on, by the unprecedented specialization and standardization of industry and the monotonous and stereotyped nature of many industrial processes in our great plants.

"The grinding roar and noise in modern plants affects the workman in every way. If he is to live at all we must reduce the number of hours to conform to his strength.

"If long hours are continued the manufacturer will suffer, as he will have a large labor turnover. Men simply will not remain in places of employment where they suffer physical degeneration and nervous exhaustion."

American Labor On Canal Zone Must Compete With West Indies

Washington, Oct. 9.—Reports from the Panama Canal Zone indicate that all classes of American citizens are joining with organized labor in protesting against low wages paid certain employes of the United States government in that area.

W. C. Hushing, who is stationed in Washington as the representative of the Panama Canal Metals Council, declares "that of some 10,000 workers employed on the Canal Zone by the United States government, 90 per cent are alien negroes from the West Indies."

In an alien employed in the United States hospital at Ancon recently pleaded guilty in the United States court at Ancon, Canal Zone, of raffling a $10 bill. The accused testified that his monthly wage is $32.50, out of which he endeavors to support a wife and three children a pay a monthly rent of $8.

The court has no hesitancy in saying that your pay is inadequate," the judge declared.

In a public address to government employes, Rev. Fr. McDonald said:

"You people know that the United States government does not pay you a decent living wage, and the government knows it, too."

The Canal Zone is leased by the United States from the Republic of Panama. It is a strip of land 10 miles wide and 47 miles long, running through the heart of Panama.

"It is significant," said Mr. Hushing, "that Panama has passed stringent laws against the admission of cheap West Indian labor, but the United States permits this labor to enter the Canal Zone.

"Prior to 1921 every Washington administration has improved conditions for American employes on the Canal Zone be livable. This was changed during the Harding regime, and since then cheap laborers from the West Indies are eliminating American workers who built and operated the canal.

"Under an act of congress the president is empowered with the administration of Canal Zone affairs. He delegates that duty to the Secretary of War, who is represented on the Canal Zone by an army officer who is given the title of governor."

HUGHES APPOINTED WORLD ARBITRATOR

Washington, Oct. 9. — President Coolidge has appointed Charles Evans Hughes, former Associate Justice of the United States Supreme court and former Secretary of State, as a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague. Mr. Hughes will fill the vacancy caused by the death of George Gray of Delaware, last year. The other members of the court are Elihu Root and John Bassett Moore. Nations select members of this court when they agree to arbitrate disputes.

New York, Oct. 9.—The New York World makes this editorial explanation of the difference between the world court at Geneva and the arbitration court at The Hague:

"The world court was not intended to supplant The Hague court, but to occupy a new and much larger field. The difference between the two is indicated by their names. The world court is the Permanent Court of International Justice; The Hague Court is the Permanent Court of Arbitration. Nations appear as litigants in the former by a regular and automatic procedure, while for the most part they appeal to the latter only by special arrangement.

"In arbitration there is frequently a certain amount of compromise and negotiation; in adjudication everything will be decided by the principle of treaties or international law. The world court has 11 judges who meet each June and sit at frequent intervals during the year; The Hague court has only a panel of possible judges who never meet at one time and place, but from whom arbitrators are selected when nations need them."

TEXTILE STRIKE END IN HANDS OF BOSSES

Passaic, N. J., Oct. 9.—In an address to a large open-air meeting of textile strikers, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, noted Jewish rabbi and churchman, declared that mill owners could settle "in one hour if they were not remorselessly bent upon the subjugation of the workers." The speaker denied that the present strike is "revolutionary," and he pointed to the workers' affiliation with the United Textile Workers, a unit of the A. F. of L.

"The mill owners are not so much against you as they are against the organization of any and all workers in any and every industry," Dr. Wise said.

"If the mill owners were sincere in their statements that they would deal with the strikers if they were organized within the proper channels of the labor movement, why do they refuse to deal with you now?"

Dr. Wise said that the protective tariff served more as a bounty to the mill owners than as protection to the workers, for which it was intended.

"The fact is," he said, "the mill owners get the protection and the workers get injunctions."

WORLD WAR WORD HAS NEW MEANING

Since the World War, the word "propaganda" has lost its innocent meaning and now excites suspicion.

Propaganda, publicity and advertising are coming to be classed in one category. They are all used in business fakes and fraud. In a world of personal and party interest, self-seekers and party agents continually exploit innocent words and phrases.—The Fur Worker.

INJUNCTION JUDGE DEALS IN COAL LAND

Morgantown, W. Va., Oct. 9.—The impeachment of Judge Lazzelle of the Monongalia County Circuit Court was urged by the annual convention of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor.

The resolution states that Judge Lazzelle and members of his family sold coal lands to a mine operator, were receiving an annual royalty therefrom and that this disqualifies the judge from sitting in labor injunction cases in which the mine owner is interested.

The convention condemned the employment by a regular and automatic procedure, while for the most part they appeal to the latter only by special arrangement.

"In arbitration there is frequently a certain amount of compromise and negotiation; in adjudication everything will be decided by the principle of treaties or international law. The world court has 11 judges who meet each June and sit at frequent intervals during the year; The Hague court has only a panel of possible judges who never meet at one time and place, but from whom arbitrators are selected when nations need them."

CORPORATE PROFITS SET NEW HIGH MARK

New York, Oct. 9.—Corporate profits in this country are setting new high records, it is declared in the current issue of the American Bankers' Association Journal.

"Quick reports of profits from some 250 leading corporations available showing their earnings for the first half of 1926, it is clearly indicated that the business profits of the present year will set a new high record," the Journal says. "The aggregate earnings of this large group are $568,000,000, compared with $470,000,000 for 1925. Of 65 industrial corporations reports published, 65 per cent run ahead of last year and only 35 per cent fall behind."

OCCUPATIONAL ILLS CAUSE HEAVY LOSSES

New York, Oct. 9.—A survey by the Reconstruction Hospital reveals that industrial workers in this state lose $35,000,000 annually through occupational diseases. The time lost is 1,500,000 weeks. With proper treatment it is possible to reduce materially the period of sickness disability, it is stated.

PACKERS' TRUST SUIT IN TANGLED LAW MAZE

Washington, Oct. 9.—Six years ago Chicago meat packers agreed to cease handling "unrelated lines," consisting chiefly of wholesale groceries and canned goods. Attorney General Palmer prophesied that the cost of living would immediately start on the down grade.

Later events proved that the packers had their fingers crossed when they signed the agreement, for since then they have been urging courts to set the "consent decree" aside. The question is now before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Since 1903 the government "has been at it" in the packers, who are charged with violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. During these 23 years proceedings in courts are a dreary record of motions, petitions, cross-petitions, filings, cross-filings, demurrers, answers, appeals, hearings, re-hearings, postponements, findings, writs, verdicts, decrees and awards that make business for lawyers.

The Palmer prophecy has long since been forgotten.

STUDIES IN ECONOMICS BASED ON EXPERIENCE

New York, Oct. 9.—The study of economics from text-books has been partly abandoned by Columbia College. Actual experience will be the source from which students will learn these principles.

"Working material for the course may be contributed by the students themselves from conditions they find among their friends and in their daily contacts with industrial events," said William E. Weld, associate professor of economics. "Readings in regular text books are also assigned, but we give students no guarantee that he will find the answer to his problem in them.

"We certainly need a much more alert under this plan of study, but they are learning more about actual conditions in the world."

CELLULOID VISOR MAY INJURE WEARER

Denver, Oct. 9.—Celluloid visors are dangerous, especially to smokers, warns the State Labor Bureau.

"Celluloid visors are liable to ignite from the flames of a match and cause a severe burn or loss of eyesight, the bureau suggests that where eyeshades are necessary, a non-inflammable material be used.

STAGE EMPLOYES UNITE

Jackson, Tenn., Oct. 9.—Stage employes and motion picture operators have united. They will be under the jurisdiction of the Memphis union.

SPEEDING UP LABOR MEANS MORE DEATHS

Atlantic City, N. J., Oct. 9.—Speeding up labor is the major cause for industry killing three men every hour in this country and for the injury for at least four weeks of 700,000 workers annually, said E. H. Lewinski-Corwin in an address before the American Hospital Association. The speaker is director of the hospital information bureau of the United Hospital Fund of New York City.

Other reasons for the increase of fatalities are the large number of new employes, following a period of depression, and the refusal of employers to install safety appliances.

"Many firms," Mr. Corwin said, "have discharged their safety engineers and entrust the work to welfare departments that possess no expert technical knowledge."

VICIOUS INJUNCTION OPPOSED BY WORKERS

New York, Oct. 9.—Madison Square Garden was crowded with striking cloakmakers at the anti-injunction meeting called by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The meeting was one of the largest held in this city, more than 20,000 persons were present and thousands failed to secure admission.

If the injunction could be enforced it would prohibit any member of the union from engaging in strike activities. The manufacturers insist that the court order is necessary to stop violence, but the workers show that in the 11 weeks of their strike, which involves 40,000 workers, the courts released practically every member of this vast army who was charged with violence.

The strike is against a system which has re-established the sweatshop in this industry. Jobbers hawk their contracts to small manufacturers, and the competition lowers wages and work conditions. The jobbers insist that they have no interest in these conditions, as they do not employ labor, but they are giving every aid to manufacturers.

WAGE RAISES IN CHICAGO

Chicago, Oct. 9.—Wage increases amounting to millions of dollars annually were granted to 466,000 building trades workers in accordance with an agreement last spring.

Boilermakers, carpenters, cement finishers, composition floor finishers, hoisting engineers, marble setters and iron workers will receive an increase from $1.37½ to $1.50 an hour. Stone derrick men had their pay increased from $1.62½ to $1.65 an hour, derrickmen from 87½ cents to 90 cents an hour.

PREFERRED STOCK HAS NO STANDING

New York, Oct. 9.—Holders of second and third mortgages are better protected in their investment than a holder of preferred stock in a corporation, Bainbridge Colby, former Secretary of State, told delegates to the annual convention of the National Association of Securities Commissioners.

"It is difficult to define the status of the preferred stockholder," said Mr. Colby. "He is not a participant in the direction and control of his corporation; this is expressly denied to him. Surely, he is not a creditor. He is an investor, and an investor on the poorest terms of them all.

"Even the common stockholder is now assigned to a special class with frequently no voice in the control or management, and he is in the hands of a small minority that practically represents the reserve power of the promoter."

Another speaker told the delegates that the lack of supervision of the issuance of bonds and securities in this state was "a disgrace, anomalous and intolerable."

Despite these warnings, workers are urged to indiscriminately buy stock in corporations, "that they may eventually control industry."

METAL TRADE WORKERS JOIN INTERNATIONAL

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 9.—The A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department voted unanimously to affiliate with the International Metal Workers' Federation. The matter was placed in the hands of the department's executive council with power to arrange details, including per capita tax and the safeguarding the autonomy of the American trade unions.

The department convention took this action following speeches by a delegation representing the international federation. The delegation consisted of Secretary-Treasurer Conrad Ilg of Switzerland, J. T. Brownlie of England, Robert Dissman of Germany and Henry Lahe of France.

The visitors called attention to the growing unity of international capitalists, and to the recent formation of an European iron and steel trust.

They said that American capital going to Europe is being used to bring about the high speed production systems of the United States and that with the unification of world capitalists, trade unionists in America should not be over-confident that attacks on them are out of the question.

The department re-elected President O'Connell, Secretary-Treasurer Berres, and all vice presidents.

REDUCE MINERS' WAGE; COAL PRICES RAISED

Denver, Oct. 9.—Wage reductions for miners and increased prices for coal are following quietly enforced and Iron Company.

This Rockefeller concern was the first to establish the company "union" in this country, following a strike of its southern Colorado coal miners in 1913-14. During that strike wages in the uniform of the Colorado state militia burned the miners' tent colony at Ludlow and killed 33 men, women and children.

After this tragedy the company "union" was set up. Its record is welfare work and wage reductions. On March 16, last year, wages were reduced 10 per cent, and two weeks later another 11 per cent cut was ordered. This spring additional reductions were quietly enforced.

The company has been awarded a contract for heating the city and county buildings at a cost of 38 and 38 cents a ton over last year's contract. The company says it is "losing money" and that high wages is responsible for increased coal prices.

BUILDING WORKERS OPPOSE WAGE CUTS

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 9.—"Wage reductions are out of the question," declared William J. Tracy, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. Building Trades Department, in his report to the annual convention of these trade unionists.

"Those interests which are clamoring to reduce wages or opposing reasonable wage advances appear to fail to take into consideration that construction work now in progress, or which was constructed during this period of prosperity, was largely brought down to the level of cheaper construction if lower labor costs were to prevail," said Mr. Tracy.

The convention re-elected all vice presidents. The administration of Secretary-Treasurer Tracy have not expired.

INDUSTRY BREAKS RECORD

Washington, Oct. 9.—The country's manufacturing output during August was the highest on record, according to the Department of Commerce. Automobiles showed the greatest expansion. The textile and leather industries were the only ones which reported a decline in production than for the same period in 1919.

LABEL TRADES RE-ELECT

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 9.—John W. Hays, president, and John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department, together with all vice presidents, were re-elected at the annual convention.

In their reports the first two officials stated that the demand for the emblem of fair dealing is increasing.

EUROPEAN STEEL TRUST FIRST OF HUGE COMBINES

Paris, France, Oct. 9.—Iron and steel manufacturers of France, Germany, Belgium and Luxemburg have perfected their trust. Price fixing and limitation of output will hereafter be the rule. England is not included in the combine, but Augoslovakia and Czechoslovakia will be parties to the movement.

American capitalists are indirectly interested in the merger through their investments in European iron and steel concerns. Continental trade unionists are alert to the danger of attacks against present low living standards of iron and steel workers, and certain liberal newspapers are discussing the possible end of small manufacturers. The trust promoters, however, promise that they will not "misuse" their power.

That the governments approve the combine is indicated by this statement by Dr. Curtius, German Minister of Commerce:

"Although the governments of these nations have been careful not to intervene directly in the undertaking engineered by private business interests, there necessarily has been close contact between the industrial leaders and the administrative officials in Germany as well as in France, Belgium and Luxemburg."

Minister Loucheur, speaking for the French government, agrees with the German official and predicts that the new trust will be the forerunner of "greater and more comprehensive agreements," the bases of which will be worked out at a forthcoming world economic conference.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 9.—Steel officials express no alarm over the European iron and steel combine. America's steel imports to Europe are so small that this country will not be affected.

FOUR-DAY STRIKE ENDS

Asheville, N. C., Oct. 9.—Street car men have ended their four-day strike. Working conditions are improved.

PEOPLE'S RULERSHIP FACES WORLD ATTACK

Portland, Ore., Oct. 9.—"There is an organized attempt throughout the world to discredit representative government," said Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's Union, at a mass meeting in this city. The speaker cited a number of manifestations of this movement.

In discussing the efforts of workers to improve conditions, the speaker said: "No honest man ever bought a gold brick." He used this in connection with his attack upon proposed short cuts to the industrial millennium, and he showed the dishonesty of trying to get something for nothing—or for less than its value.

"The man who buys a gold brick does so in the belief that it is stolen goods or in the knowledge that he is taking advantage of another's necessity."

Another figure used by the speaker was in his warning against darker acting the tactics of the cuckoo, which lays its eggs in the nests of other birds for them to hatch. Labor must hatch its own eggs, he said.

HOSPITALS PROTEST LOW INJURIES' PAY

Atlantic City, Oct. 9.—Hospitals care for workmen's compensation cases below cost, according to a resolution adopted by the American Hospital Association. It was stated that inadequate rates make it necessary for charitable contributions to make good the deficiency.

"Under present conditions the burden of proper treatment of compensation cases is oppressive, unjust and contrary to all economic principles," it was stated.

LABOR LAWS URGED

Nashua, N. H., Oct. 9.—The New Hampshire State Federation of Labor instructed officials to renew opposition to the labor injunction at the next legislative session.

A change in the workmen's compensation law, raising compensation for injured workers from one-half of their weekly pay, to two-thirds, was favored. An increase in the maximum weekly compensation from $15 to $20 was adopted.

The convention re-elected President Barry and Secretary-Treasurer Kelleher, and selected Keene as the next convention city.

LAW'S DELAY SHOWN IN OIL LEASE SUITS

Washington, Oct. 9.—While the District Court of Appeals has dismissed the special appeal of Sinclair, Doheny and Fall, who are under criminal indictment in the oil lease cases, the decision calls attention to the law's delay when defendants can secure resourceful lawyers.

When the three men were indicted, their plea was to set aside the charges were refused by higher courts. The appellate court permitted them to enter a special appeal. Following this decision, Congress passed a law introduced by Senator Walsh of Montana, the effect of which would invalidate the special appeal. Defendants now attack the validity of the Walsh law, and will probably carry the case to the United States Supreme Court.

Doheny, who secured the Elks Hills oil lease, is accused of giving a bribe of $100,000 to Fall, who was Secretary of the Interior in the Harding cabinet. Fall is under indictment for accepting the bribe. The two, together with Sinclair, who secured the Teapot Dome oil lease, are under indictment to defraud the government.

The civil cases against the three men have made very little progress. Two Federal Courts of Appeals have ruled that both oil leases were secured through fraud. There is no jail penalty connected with the civil cases, but they may result in a restoration of the people's property.

SHOT IN HOLD-UP; GETS COMPENSATION

Trenton, N. J., Oct. 9.—The New Jersey State Supreme Court has affirmed a workmen's compensation award of $1,200 to a worker who was shot in a hold-up at Newark.

The court ruled that "in these times" a hold-up can be "reasonably anticipated as connected with employment."

FAVOR OLD AGE PENSIONS

Montreal, Quebec, Oct. 9.—An old age pension system, under government supervision, was favored by the annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Officers of the congress reported that a forward step has been made in this movement by the federal government accepting the principle.

President Tom Moore and Secretary-Treasurer Draper were re-elected.